**Alt**

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| Short for **Alternate**, **Alt** is a key generally located by the space bar on IBM compatible computer keyboards. This term may be used to describe a key combination such as:  [CTRL](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/ctrl.htm) + ALT + [DEL](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/d/delete.htm)  The above combination means press and hold on the keyboard CTRL and ALT and DEL to perform the function, in this case reboot the computer or open the close program window / [task manager](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/t/taskmana.htm) window.   * Additional information about keyboards and keyboard keys can be found on our [keyboard help page](http://www.computerhope.com/help/keyboard.htm).   **Also see:**[CTRL](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/ctrl.htm), [Keyboard definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/keyboard.htm), [Modifier key](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/modifkey.htm) |

**Whack**

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| Slang commonly used to describe a forward slash. Whack (also sometimes spelled as wack) can be used to describe either a forward or backward slash, although is commonly used to describe the forward slash in a [URL](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/u/url.htm). Below is an example of how a whack may be used when describing an [Internet](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/internet.htm) address.  http: <whack> <whack> [www.computerhope.com](http://www.computerhope.com)  is the same as  <http://www.computerhope.com>  While the [back slash](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/backslas.htm) is sometimes referred to as a whack, it is technically correct to only refer to the forward slash as a whack to help prevent confusion.  **Also see:**[Bang](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/bang.htm), [Dub-dub-dub](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/d/dubdubdu.htm), [Forward slash](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/f/forwards.htm), [Keyboard definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/keyboard.htm) |

**Peripheral**

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| In general, refers to a hardware device that allows a computer to perform additional features but is not a necessity for the computer. Below are some good examples of computer peripherals.   * [Printer](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/printer.htm) * [Plotter](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/plotter.htm) * [Scanner](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/o/optiscan.htm) * [Projector](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/projecto.htm) * [Tape drive](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/t/tape.htm)   Good examples of computer peripherals are computer disk drives, [keyboards](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/k/keyboard.htm), printers, etc... Computer peripherals are incapable of operating by themselves and rely on the computer to function properly.  **Also see:** [Accessory](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/a/accessor.htm), [Bells and whistles](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/bellwhis.htm), [Hardware](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/h/hardware.htm) |

**Phantom**

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| When referring to computers or computer hardware, phantom commonly refers to a hardware device or object that is not present on the computer but is still being detected. |

**Phreak**

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| A **phreak** or **phone phreak** is a term used to describe an individual who illegally breaks into the telephone system to make free calls or to tap another phone.  **Also see:**[2600](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/num/2600.htm), [Blue box](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/bluebox.htm), [Hacker](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/h/hacker.htm), [Security definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/vdef.htm) |

**PIF**

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| Short for **Program Information File**, **PIF** is a file used in [Microsoft](http://www.computerhope.com/comp/msoft.htm) Windows operating systems that contains information used to run a [MS-DOS](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/msdos.htm) application in the Windows environment. PIF files were commonly used in Microsoft Windows 3.x; however, with the absence of MS-DOS applications, PIF files are seldom used today.  **Also see:** [File](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/f/file.htm) |

**Pitch**

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| 1. When referring to a software word processing or desktop publishing program, pitch is a measurement used to determine how many fixed-width characters can fit into an [inch](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/inch.htm) of space. 2. When referring to sound, pitch refers to the subjective perception of [frequency](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/f/frequenc.htm).   **Also see:** [Measurement](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/measure.htm), [Sound definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/sound.htm) |

**POTS**

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| Short for **Plain Old Telephone System, POTS** is used to describe the telephone system used to make phone calls.  **Also see:** [CAT1](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/cat1.htm), [Telephone](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/t/telphone.htm) |

**Protocol**

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| Sometimes referred to as an access method, a protocol is a standard used to define a method of exchanging data over a computer network such as [local area network](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/l/lan.htm), [Internet](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/internet.htm), [Intranet](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/intranet.htm), etc. Each protocols has its own method of how data is formatted when sent and what to do with it once received, how that data is compressed and/or how to check for errors in data. |

**CHAP**

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| Short for **Challenge-Handshake Authentication Protocol**, **CHAP** is defined in [RFC](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/r/rfc.htm) 1994 and is an authentication protocol used over [PPP](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/ppp.htm).  **Also see:**[Network definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/network.htm), [Protocol](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/protocol.htm) |

**If statement**

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| Programming conditional statement that, if proved true, performs a function or displays information. For example:  If X = 10 then print "X is equal to 10"  which could also be written as:  if ($x == 10) { print "X is equal to 10"; }  In the above example, if the X value was equal to 10, the program would display "X is equal to 10". Note: the above example is a general example and does not apply to any programming language. See our [conditional statement dictionary definition](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/contstat.htm) for additional information and some basic programming examples.   * See our [MS-DOS if command page](http://www.computerhope.com/if.htm) if you're looking for additional information and examples of how to use the MS-DOS if command.   **Also see:**[Conditional expression](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/contstat.htm), [Else](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/e/else.htm), [Exists](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/e/exists.htm), [Programming definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/program.htm) |

**IP**

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| Short for **Internet** [**Protocol**](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/protocol.htm), **IP** is an address of a computer or other network device on a network using IP or TCP/IP . For example, the number "166.70.10.23" is an example of such an address. These addresses are similar to addresses used on houses and help data reach its appropriate destination on a network.  There are five classes of available IP ranges: Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D and Class E, while only A, B and C are commonly used. Each class allows for a range of valid IP addresses. Below is a listing of these addresses.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Class | Address Range | Supports | | **Class A** | 1.0.0.1 to 126.255.255.254 | Supports 16 million hosts on each of 127 networks. | | **Class B** | 128.1.0.1 to 191.255.255.254 | Supports 65,000 hosts on each of 16,000 networks. | | **Class C** | 192.0.1.1 to 223.255.254.254 | Supports 254 hosts on each of 2 million networks. | | **Class D** | 224.0.0.0 to 239.255.255.255 | Reserved for [multicast](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/m/multicast.htm) groups. | | **Class E** | 240.0.0.0 to 254.255.255.254 | Reserved. |   Ranges 127.x.x.x are reserved for loopback tests, for example, 127.0.0.1. Ranges 255.255.255.255 are used to [broadcast](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/broadcas.htm) to all hosts on the local network.  All IP addresses are broken down into 4 sets of [octets](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/o/octet.htm) that break down into [binary](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/binary.htm) to represent the actual IP address. The below chart is a basic example of the basic IP 255.255.255.255.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **IP:** | 255. | 255. | 255. | 255. | | **Binary value:** | 11111111. | 11111111. | 11111111. | 11111111. | | **Octet value:** | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |   If we were to break down the IP "166.70.10.23", which is the IP address of [Computer Hope](http://www.computerhope.com), you would get the below value.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 166. | 70. | 10. | 23 | | 10100110. | 01000110. | 00001010. | 00010111 | | 128+32+4+2=166 | 64+4+2=70 | 8+2=10 | 16+4+2+1=23 |   There are several IP addresses used or automatically assigned on a network. For example:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | 166.70.10.0 | 0 is the automatically assigned network address. | | 166.70.10.1 | 1 is the commonly used address used as the [gateway](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/g/gateway.htm). | | 166.70.10.2 | 2 is also a commonly used address used for a gateway. | | 166.70.10.255 | 255 is automatically assigned on most networks as the [broadcast](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/broadcas.htm) address. |   Users and/or companies who need to register an IP address or a valid range of IP addresses must register that IP address through [InterNIC](http://www.internic.com).   * [Click here](http://www.computerhope.com/cgi-bin/systeminfo.cgi) to see what your IP address is and other system settings are. * Additional information about network commands used to determine network information can be found on [document CH000444](http://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000444.htm). * Additional information about how to determine an IP address can be found on [document CH000483](http://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000483.htm). * See [document CH000962](http://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000962.htm) for additional information about determining another computer or a website IP address. * Information about how to find the physical location of an IP address can be found on [document CH001044](http://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch001044.htm).   **Also see:**[Binary](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/b/binary.htm), [CIDR](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/c/cidr.htm), [ICANN](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/icann.htm), [IP spoofing](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/spoofing.htm), [IPv4](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/ipv4.htm), [IPv6](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/ipv6.htm), [Localhost](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/l/locahost.htm), [Netmask](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/n/netmask.htm), [Network definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/network.htm), [Ping](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/ping.htm), [Protocol](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/protocol.htm), [Reserved address space](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/r/reseaddr.htm), [Static allocation](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/statallo.htm), [Subnet](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/subnetma.htm) |

**Spoof**

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| In general the term **spoof** refers to a type of hacking or deception technique that imitates another person, software program, hardware device, or computer, with the intentions of bypassing security measures. One of the most commonly known types of spoofing is [IP spoofing](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/spoofing.htm).  **IP spoofing**  A method of bypassing security measures on a network or a method of gaining access to a network by imitating a different [IP address](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/ip.htm). Some security systems have a method of helping to identifying a user by his or her IP address or IP address range. If the attacker spoofs their IP address to match this criteria it may help bypass security measures.  This technique is also used to deceive a web page, poll, or other Internet contest into thinking the user is someone else allowing him or her to get more hits or falsely increase a votes rank.  **E-mail or address spoofing**  Process of faking a senders e-mail address. This type of spoofing is used to fool the recipient of the e-mail into thinking someone else actually sent them the message. This is commonly used to bypass [spam filters](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/spam.htm) or to trick the user into thinking the e-mail is safe when in reality it contains an attachment that is infected with a [virus](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/v/virus.htm) or spam.   * See [document CH001065](http://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch001065.htm) for additional information about why you may be getting bounce back e-mails from e-mail you didn't send.   **Web page spoof**  A fake [web page](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/w/webpage.htm) or spoof on another commonly visited page. For example a malicious user may create a spoof page of Microsoft's, eBay, PayPal or Google's home page that looks identical but is hosted on a different server. These type of pages are commonly used in [phishing e-mails](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/phishing.htm) to extract information from the user such as usernames and passwords or to send malicious files to them.  **Also see:** [IP](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/ip.htm), [Joe Job](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/j/joejob.htm), [Network definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/network.htm), [Security definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/vdef.htm), [Underground](http://www.computerhope.com/under.htm) |

**iPhone**

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| 1. A mobile handset from [Linksys](http://www.computerhope.com/comp/linksys.htm) who's a subsidiary of [Cisco](http://www.computerhope.com/comp/cisco.htm). The **iPhone** handset connects to a [WiFi](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/w/wifi.htm) network and enables users to make wireless phone calls through their home computers using [Skype](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/skype.htm). This phone enables users to use Skype anywhere in their home or office (within WiFi range), similar to the traditional cordless home phone.   * The official Cisco iPhone page can be found [here](http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/779/smbiz/iphone/).   2. The **iPhone** is also a product introduced by [Apple](http://www.computerhope.com/comp/apple.htm) at the January [2007](http://www.computerhope.com/history/2000.htm) Macworld Conference & Expo. The iPhone is cell phone that also works as a [iPod](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/ipod.htm), camera phone, [PDA](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/p/pda.htm), and has [WiFi](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/w/wifi.htm) access that can be used to access and browse the Internet using its widescreen display.   * The official Apple iPhone page can be found [here](http://www.apple.com/iphone/).   Because of the obvious trademark conflict, Cisco filed a trademark infringement against Apple shortly after its release. However, shortly after filing the trademark infringement the companies came to terms and agreed to share the name between the two different products. The Apple iPhone was released to the public June 29, 2007.  **Also see:**[iPod](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/ipod.htm) |

**IYKWIM**

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| [Shorthand](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/shorthan.htm) for **if you know what I mean**, **IYKWIM** is used in chat and other text-based communications.  **Also see:**[Chat definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/chat.htm) |

**ITYM**

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| [Shorthand](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/shorthan.htm) for **I think you mean**, **ITYM** is used in chat and other text-based communications.  **Also see:**[Chat definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/chat.htm) |

**ITA**

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| [Shorthand](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/s/shorthan.htm) for **I totally agree**, **ITA** is used in chat and text-based communications. Below is an example of how this could be used in chat.  User1: I wish I could have Bill Gates money. User2: ITA  **Also see:**[Chat definitions](http://www.computerhope.com/jargon/chat.htm) |

**Isometric view**

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| Three-dimensional view that shows the height, width, and depth of an object. However, it does not change when changing the perspective. |